

12 a selective non-catalytic reducing compound placed within said gas generator in heterogeneous relation to said gas generant composition, wherein said selective non-catalytic reducing compound is selected from the group consisting of ammonium salts, amides, imides, or amine-containing compounds.

Please add the following new claims:

13. (new) The vehicle occupant restraint system of claim 3 wherein said gas generant composition is extruded into a desirable shape and upon combustion yields gases comprising NO_x gas, and, said reducing compound contains at least one mole of elemental nitrogen per one mole of NO_x produced by the gas generant composition upon combustion and is discretely interspersed about the gas generant composition.

14. (new) The vehicle occupant restraint system of claim 3 wherein said gas generant composition comprises at least one material of each of the following functional groups of materials – a) a fuel selected from the group of azole compounds consisting of triazole, aminotetrazole, tetrazole, bitetrazole, and metal salts of these compounds; b) an oxygen containing oxidizer compound selected from the group consisting of alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, lanthanide and ammonium nitrates and perchlorates or from the group consisting of alkali metal and alkaline earth metal chlorates and peroxides; and c) a low-temperature slag forming material which is sufficient in amount during combustion to cause the solid combustion particles to coalesce into easily filterable slag or clinkers but not so much as to make a low viscosity liquid, selected from the group consisting of silicon dioxide, boric oxide and vanadium pentoxide or from the group consisting of alkali metal silicates, borates, and carbonates or from the group consisting of naturally occurring clays and talcs, and, the gas generant composition is extruded into a desirable shape and combusts to yield gases comprising NO_x gases, and, the

reducing compound contains at least one mole of elemental nitrogen per one mole of NO_x produced by the gas generating mixture upon combustion, and is interspersed about the gas generant composition.

12 15. (new) The vehicle occupant restraint system of claim 3 wherein said nitrogen-containing gas generant composition produces nitrogen monoxide and/or nitrogen dioxide upon combustion thereof and said selective non-catalytic reducing compound is proximate to and heterogeneously interspersed about said gas generant composition, whereby said reducing compound reduces the nitrogen monoxide and/or nitrogen dioxide produced from combustion of said gas generant composition.

16. (new) The vehicle occupant restraint system of claim 13 wherein said nitrogen-containing gas generant composition produces nitrogen monoxide and/or nitrogen dioxide upon combustion thereof and said selective non-catalytic reducing compound is proximate to and heterogeneously interspersed about said gas generant composition, whereby said reducing compound reduces the nitrogen monoxide and/or nitrogen dioxide produced from combustion of said gas generant composition.

17. (new) The vehicle occupant restraint system of claim 14 wherein said nitrogen-containing gas generant composition produces nitrogen monoxide and/or nitrogen dioxide upon combustion thereof and said selective non-catalytic reducing compound is proximate to and heterogeneously interspersed about said gas generant composition, whereby said reducing compound reduces the nitrogen monoxide and/or nitrogen dioxide produced from combustion of said gas generant composition.

18. (new) A vehicle occupant restraint system of Claim 3 wherein:
said selective non-catalytic reducing compound is selected from the group